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ADVENTURES IN
ABERHARTIA
WITH ARCH DALE
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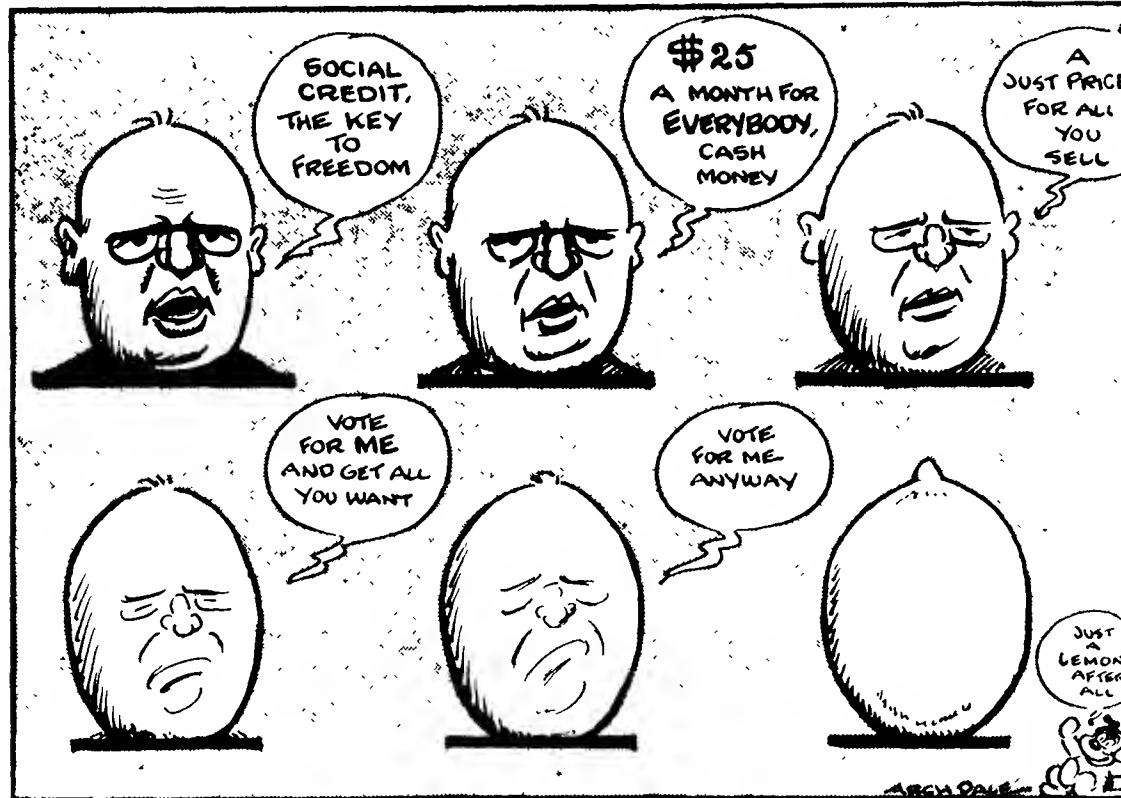
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ADVENTURES IN ABERHARTIA
WITH
ARCH DALE
AND THE
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SOCIAL CREDIT FROM A TO Z



Very early indeed in the curious but blithesome futilities of Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit ambrosia, the genius of Arch Dale's hearty laughter blew aside the veil of namby-pambyism, and disclosed the real fruit upon the altar before which so many people foolishly had sacrificed their political substance.

FOREWORD

IT has been said that the daily newspaper constitutes a running record of history as it is made. That is true of the illustrations which appear in the daily press almost as much as of the printed word. And of the illustrations in the Winnipeg Free Press which may be said to fulfil this historical function, the drawings of Canada's ace cartoonist, Arch Dale, stand out conspicuously. They constitute particularly a running record of the political events of the period. Not an unbiased record, it is true, because cartoons which do not present an editorial opinion are really not cartoons at all. The pure historical value of cartoons may be questioned on that basis, since history is supposed to be factual rather than opinionative. But cartoons do have a historical significance in that they portray a prevailing editorial attitude on a given issue or condition.

The cartoons which the Free Press publishes in this volume have to do with a development of very definite importance in the political life of Canada—the emergence of Social Credit as a factor in the field of government. From the very outset the Free Press has been critical of Social Credit—first because, in our opinion, Social Credit is founded on false and unsound principles; secondly because the programme which it promotes is a menace to Canadian Confederation; thirdly because the objectives which it promises are impossible of realization; and fourthly because in striving to attain these objectives, it sows seeds of discontentment and disruption that are dangerous to the welfare of the nation.

Since it is the practice of cartoonists in developing their approach to pick on the central figure involved in the subject under consideration, it is inevitable that in the series of Free Press cartoons dealing with Social Credit which have appeared during the past three years, the butt of the criticism should be Mr. William Aberhart.

The fact, then, that most of the cartoons in this volume involve Mr. Aberhart should not be construed as indicating that this is in any sense a personal attack on the present premier of Alberta. His is the notoriety because of the leading role which he has played.

The Free Press feels that Arch Dale has done an exceptionally brilliant job on this subject, and the more widely distributed the volume, the happier both he and the Free Press will be, because both we and he, for the reasons outlined, are dead against Social Credit in any way, shape, or form. And so is Charlie Clay whose job it was to write the underlines of the cartoons which appear from now on.

—May, 1938

ARCH DALE, Himself

What, we wondered, could be more appropriate for this new volume of Arch Dale cartoons than a cartoon of the cartoonist. The answer, of course, is nothing; so here is Arch Dale in caricature, complete with his four inevitables—the dog (well laden), the Doo-Dad, the Little Man, and the cigarette. The caricature, which Arch himself says is an insult, is the work of his fellow Free Press artist, Robert Reck.

Among Arch's colleagues, there has been much difference of opinion on just what it is he smokes. One school argues that he smokes cigarettes and the other that he smokes matches. Wherever and whenever you see Arch Dale, he is holding a match to his cigarette and the consensus is that he uses 20 of the former to one of the latter. His consumption of matches is terrific, which is rather strange because he never has any.

Legend has it that he has never bought a match since the days of the open bar, when they were free with the lunches. In confirming this, Arch says the reason is that he's against all taxation and that includes the match tax.

Anyway, his invariable salutation is, "Have you any matches?" If it were not for the fact that he is the soul of generosity in every other respect, some people might assume that this match business was somehow connected with his place of origin. Archie was born in Dundee, Scotland, and has the distinction of being the only Scotsman in Canada who does not go berserk when the bagpipes are played.

While developing his talents on the Dundee Courier, he was stirred with a yearning to conquer new fields. So he got himself a new job on the Glasgow News. Those were in the days of Jimmie Quinn and the Celts. Arch stayed there three years. Then he got the wanderlust in earnest. He went up to London Town and free-lanced for a few months, but the going was tough, so he decided to go too. He became a migrant in almost no time, he crossed 3,000 miles of ocean and 2,000 miles of Canadian terrain to a spot in Saskatchewan 100 miles from the railway where he took up a homestead.

Homesteading in Saskatchewan was something less idyllic than the travel posters had painted it. In short, it was a hard life and Archie, to add to his inadequate income, drew a cartoon and sent it to the Free Press. It was accepted immediately. He drew others and still others with the same success. Then the Free Press drew Archie into Winnipeg. Since then, his cartoons have delighted newspaper readers in three countries.

After a spell on the Free Press he went to the Manchester Dispatch to replace the famous "Poy" who had moved to London. Then Archie moved to London, too, and worked for the Harmsworth papers. The Free Press lured him back to western Canada but could not keep him. He left for Chicago and New York to syndicate his well-known "Doo-Dads."

But when western Canada gets in your blood it's there to stay. To the delight of the Free Press, Archie came back 10 years ago and announced that this time it was for good. Though he hates the winters, and doesn't care much for the summers either, his itchy foot has been cured. When he becomes too discouraged with the Winnipeg weatherman, he has only to think of how horrible life is in Chicago and New York and the upsurging wanderlust dies a-borning. On such occasions, even the inexhaustible supply of free matches in the United States has no allure.

Instead of golfing, or curling, or eating haggis, Archie gets his recreation in teaching his daughter, Julia, cartooning. He allows that she will surpass her teacher one of these days.—J.H.G.

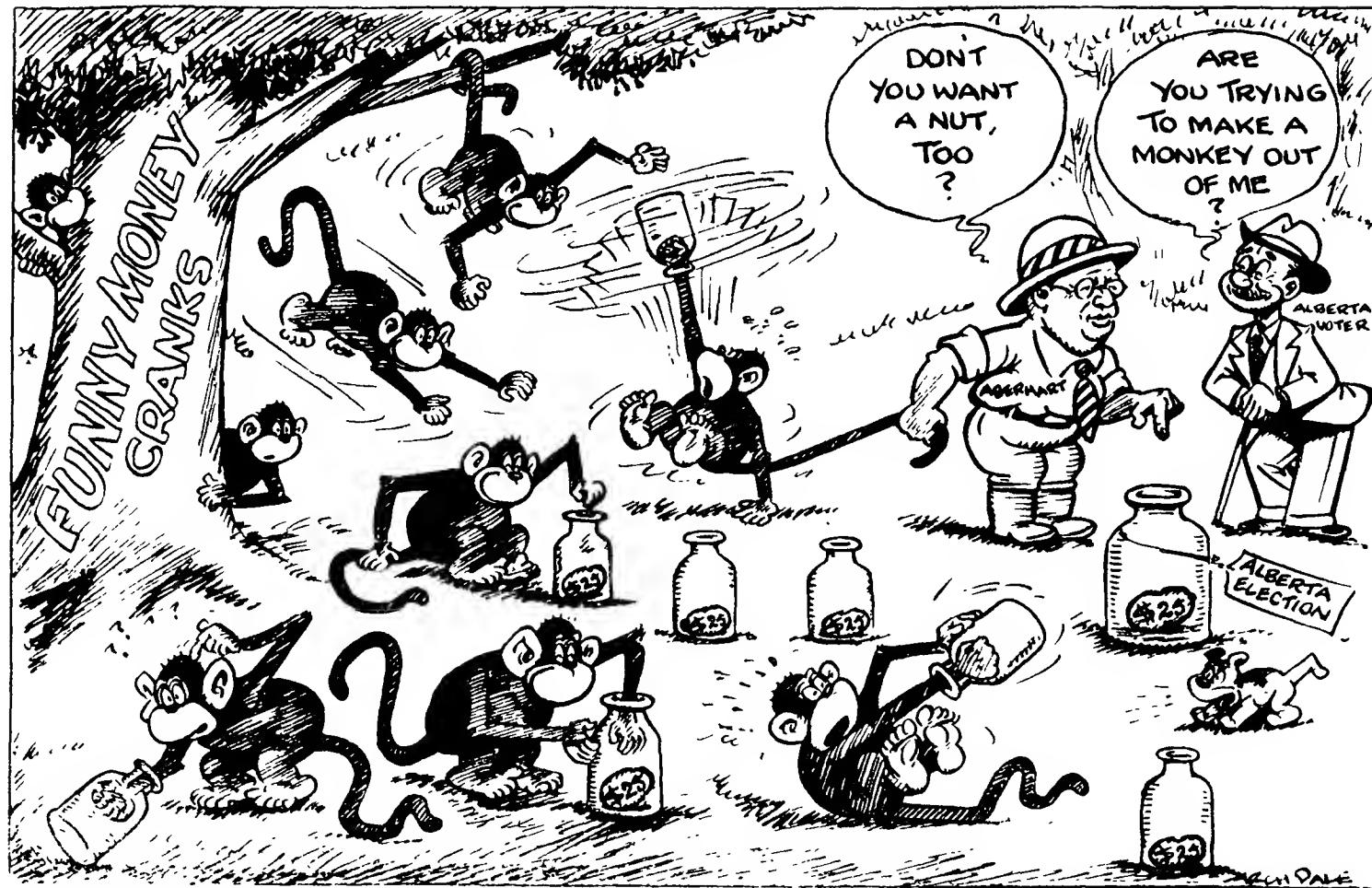


ECONOMICS, IN THE LATEST FALLACY



After conferring with Major Douglas, Mr. Aberhart announced his policies, and threw his hat into the Alberta election ring. In the Preamble of his now famous "Social Credit Manual," Mr. Aberhart said: "It is not very difficult for most people to understand the philosophy of Social Credit." From the very beginning, however, Arch Dale was not so sure that anybody did understand it. (June 4, 1935.)

THERE'S ALWAYS A CATCH IN SUCH THINGS



The day before the voting, Dale warned the Alberta electorate that the preposterous proposition of "\$25 a month for everybody" was about as reliable as a circus barker's pleasant hooey. (Aug. 21, 1935.)

HIKERS ON THE ALBERTA TRAIL



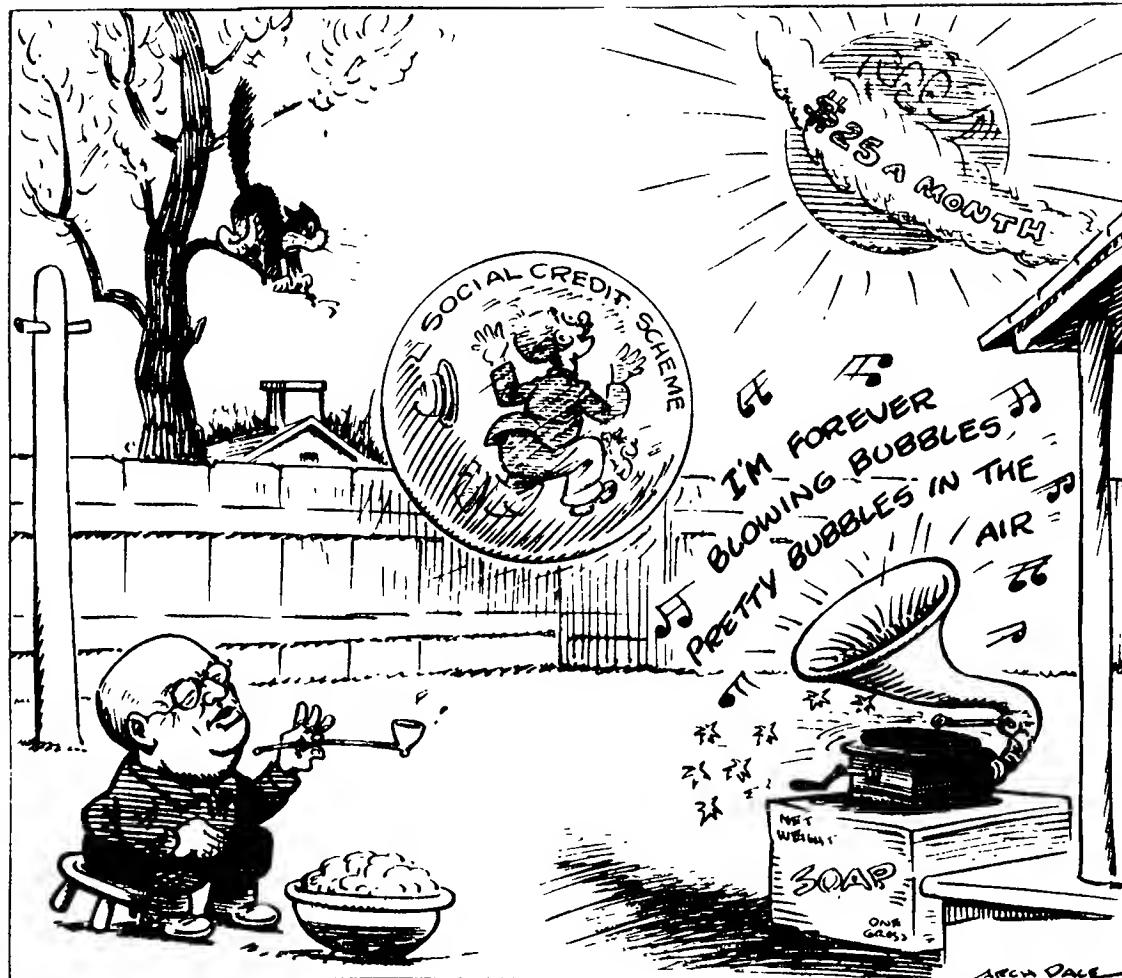
When the votes were counted, however, Dale found his warnings had been optimistically disregarded. It was then that he struck his leitmotif of criticism for the following three years: "What about the \$25?" Mr. Aberhart, shortly after his election, said: "I feel like a young horse with the bit in his teeth. I want to get going." Dale directed attention to the long, long trail that lay ahead. (Aug. 28, 1935.)

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY EVADED



Upon taking office, Mr. Aberhart found he had inherited pressing financial obligations and an empty treasury. He wanted \$18,000,000. He announced he was off to Ottawa to interest Mr. Bennett, then Prime Minister, in a loan. This looked like a curious inconsistency to Dale; with his usual good humor he suggested it was an ideal situation in which to start the Social Credit idea working. At least, give it a chance! Mr. Aberhart evaded the opportunity, reiterated his statement that it would be eighteen months before Social Credit could really operate. (Sept. 7, 1935.)

"FORTUNE'S ALWAYS HIDING"



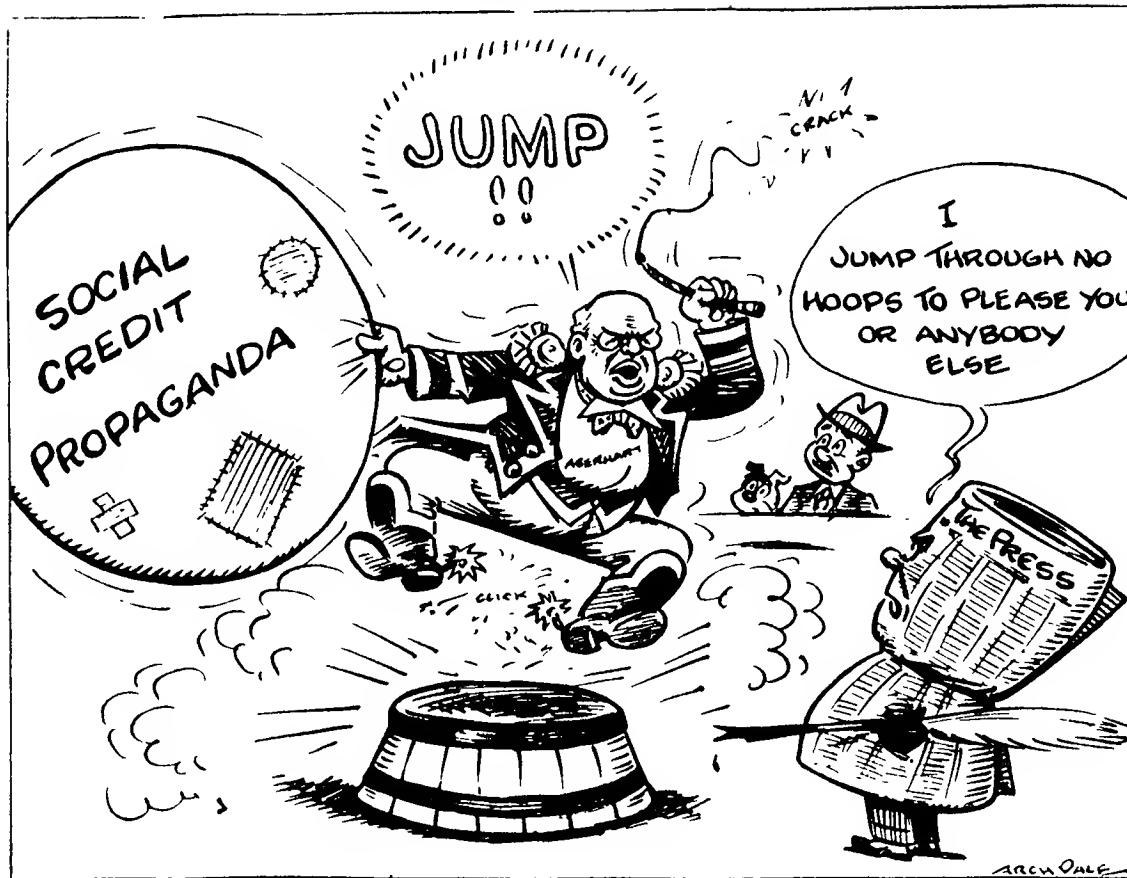
Early in November of '35 Mr. Aberhart became the target for criticism among his followers. He received his first threatening letter about the non-payment of the promised basic dividend. Mr. Aberhart declared he had no intention of building Social Credit on "rotten foundations"; he needed time; he was still trying hard. Arch Dale thought so, too. (Nov. 15, 1935.)

HIS FIRST MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEWSPAPERS



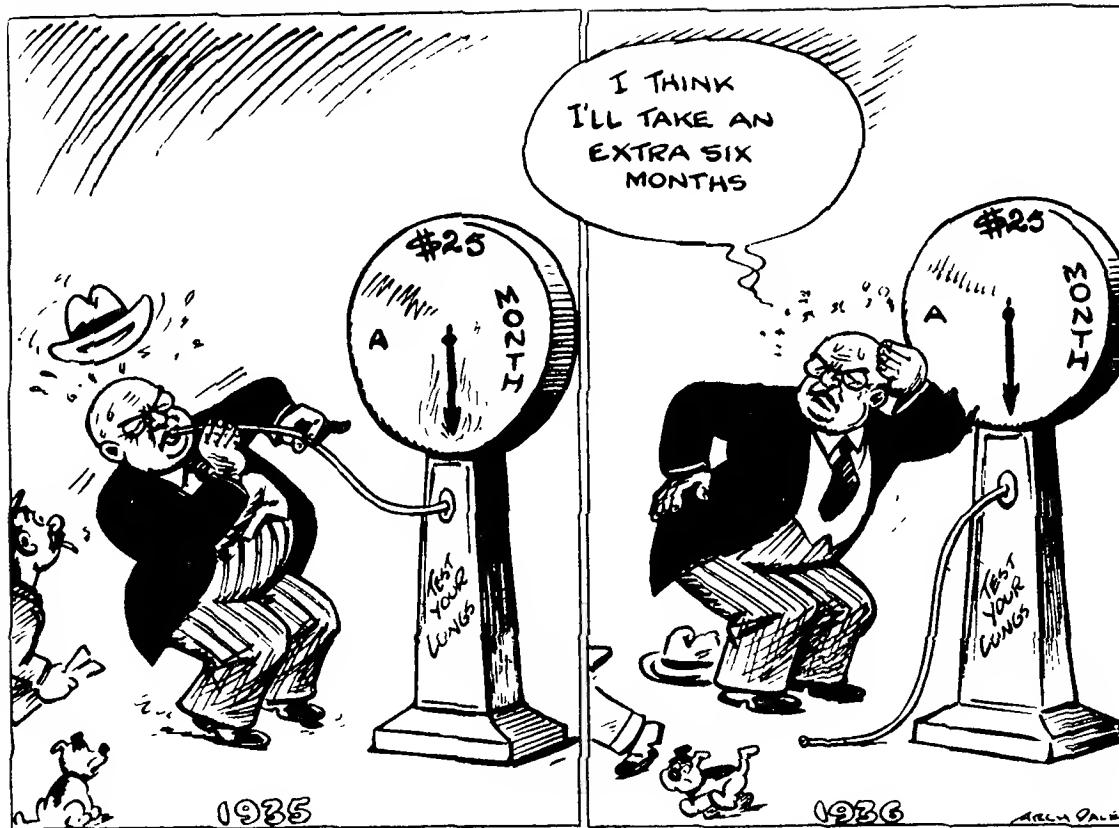
Addressing a church congregation of Ottawa on Dec. 8, Mr. Aberhart startled his hearers with an attack on the Press of Canada. He said the newspapers had purposely got him all wrong; he had been maligned, and false impressions had been given about Social Credit. But Dale was only barely concerned about Mr. Aberhart's inability to take criticism; he wanted to know a little more about the promised \$25. (Dec. 11, 1935.)

A HINT OF WHAT COULD COME



The following January Mr. Aberhart gave hint of regimentation. He went after the Press tooth and nail at a meeting in his Prophetic Bible Institute, called eager and industrious news-hawks "nuisances," said he felt "glad to believe there will be no newspapers in heaven." Mr. Aberhart concluded his tirade by declaring "the people," meaning Social Crediters, "must control the Press." For the first time in his campaign against the theory of Social Credit, Dale got a little angry. He retorted with good, honest heat. (Jan. 7, 1936.)

NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKED



Five months after taking over office, Mr. Aberhart himself began to have doubts, (his own phrases were "I am going about my work as best I can, I am not sour or sore"), that he could establish Social Credit within the promised eighteen months after elections. He regretted the necessity of a slight extension in the period. Arch Dale was happy to make the new situation graphic for Albertans, and other observers of the hoped-for miracle. (Jan. 15, 1936.)

NO MILK AND LESS HONEY IN ABERHARTIA



Along about this time Mr. R. G. Reid, former Alberta U.F.A. premier, became slightly annoyed over Social Credit allegations that his Government had left a financial mess for Mr. Aberhart's ministers to clean up. Mr. Reid made clear the reason for falling Government revenues when he said: "Mr. Aberhart must know that the apprehension is attributable entirely to fear of the results of the policies of his administration." (Jan. 23, 1936.)

FROM BASIC DIVIDENDS TO BASIC FACTS



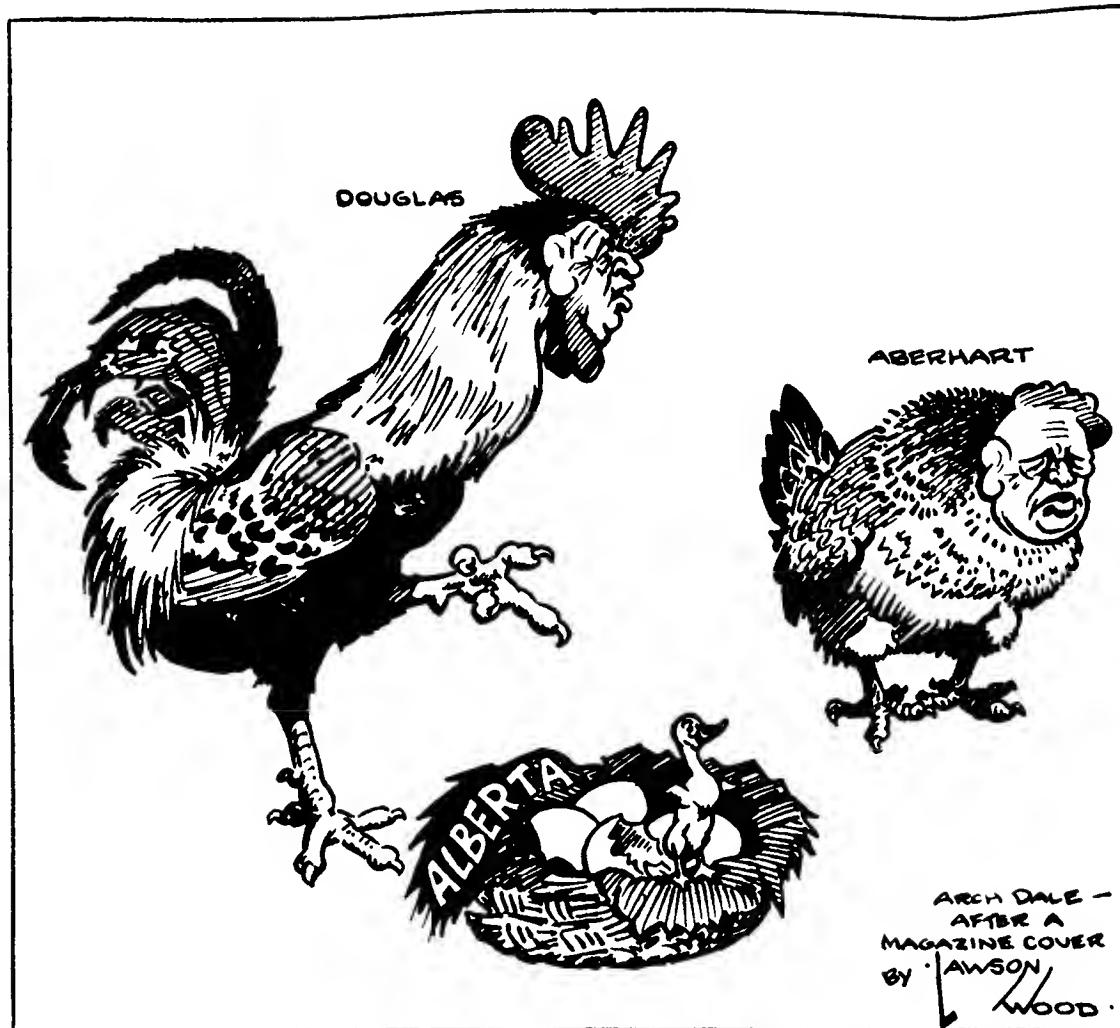
Carrying the campaign against the Press a step further, the Social Credit party acquired its own newspaper, "The Calgary Albertan." Mr. Aberhart perhaps decided that if he had to delay giving out basic dividends, he need not delay giving out basic facts; he could also counteract what he called the "misrepresentations of the big interests' organs," a phrase which is an Aberhartian euphemism for "inability to take criticism." Dale generously overlooked this frailty, and poked good-natured fun at the mysteriously nonexistent \$25. (Feb. 5, 1936.)

THE FIRST RIFT IN THE LUTE



Early in March, '36, a controversy developed between the two by this time famous Social Credit sponsors. Major Douglas, who was supposed to vanquish poverty on the Plains of Aberhart, refused to put in an appearance. Mr. Aberhart declared he would have to get "another expert." Both Premier and Major kept as calm as they could, under the circumstances. Said Mr. Aberhart: "There is no man living who is without fault." (March 4, 1936.)

THE RIFT WIDENS



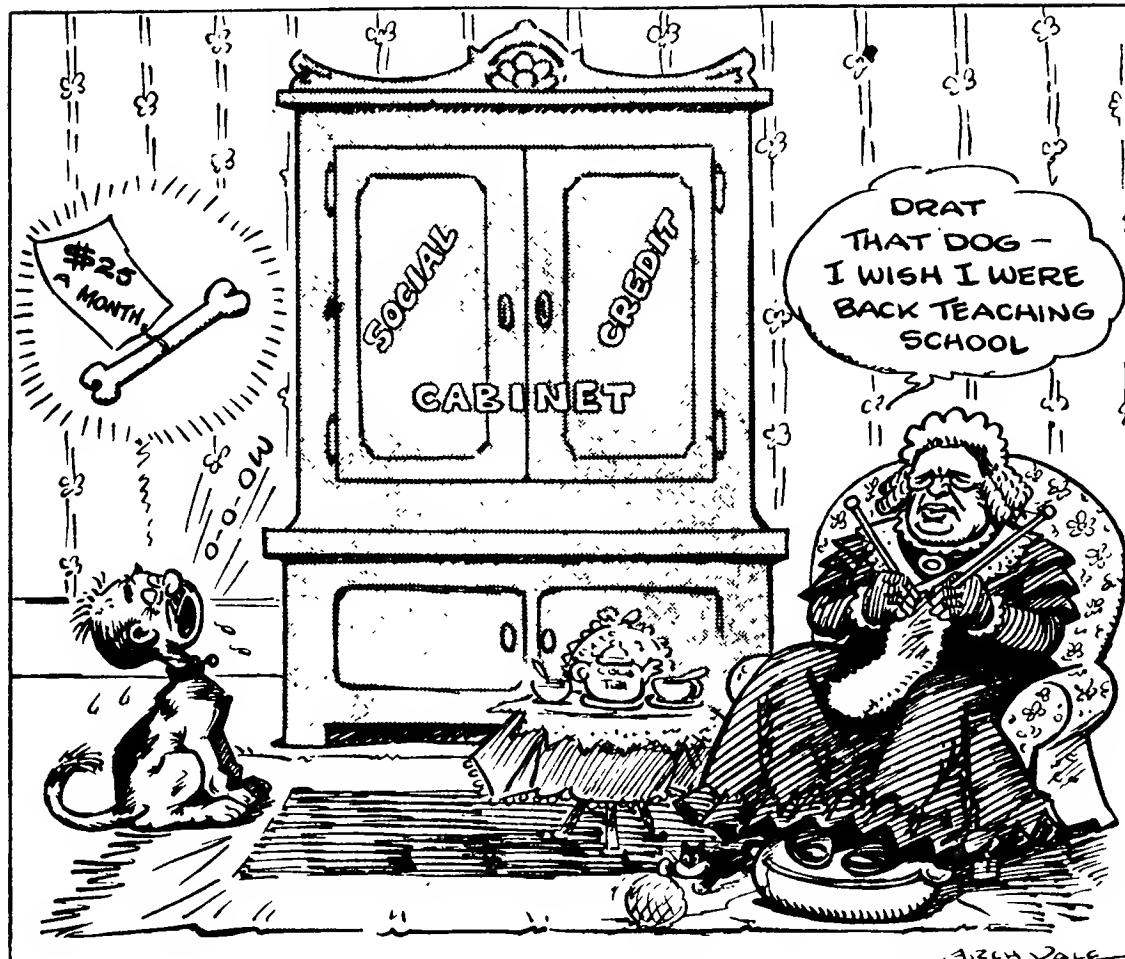
For a month or so the controversy waxed heatedly. Mr. Aberhart demanded and denied; Major Douglas denied and demanded; critics of Social Credit moonshine were highly amused. The rift widened between the two economic messiahs of the age, and the capital of Aberhartia finally announced the break was beyond repair. With this crisis safely passed, all Mr. Aberhart had to do was to go ahead and put Social Credit across himself. (April 18, 1936.)

PROGRESS IN ABERHARTIA



Ten months after his decision to bring prosperity to Alberta, Mr. Aberhart was getting along splendidly. He was moving towards his objective with smart speed, by going full pelt in the opposite direction. The occasion found Dale in a mellow mood, and he dealt with it in his typically kindly and understanding manner. (April 28, 1936.)

"WE MUST BE GIVEN TIME"



Perplexed at his inability to bring in the promised millennium, Mr. Aberhart, school master-premier, pled for a little more patience. He said: "Development of Social Credit from theory to actual working operation must be a process of deliberate planning in stages." But with his plans all going awry, Mr. Aberhart discovered a sad yearning for the comfortable familiarity of his former class-rooms. Teaching arithmetic is easier than attempting tricks with funny money. (May 13, 1936.)

CHANGING HINTS TO THREATS



By the beginning of June, '36, Mr. Aberhart's misunderstanding of the honest criticisms by the Press of Social Credit principles began to take on a more sinister note. In January the Premier had hinted there should be control of the Press; five months later he was urging the need of licensing newspapers, as "the only way to make them tell the truth." Dale, however, refused to believe Mr. Aberhart's intentions were as dictatorial as they sounded; and with customary drollery he turned the threat into hilarious nonsense. (June 3, 1936.)

GATHERING OF THE DOUGLAS CLAN



A year after jumping into the political swim, the Premier of Aberhartia found himself the target of criticism from within his ranks, as well as from without. A secession movement made a few uneasy stirrings; the Alberta Douglas Social Credit Association declared that Mr. Aberhart had not only failed to keep his election promises, but had also departed entirely from Social Credit principles. If Mr. Aberhart was astounded at the criticism, Dale was filled with mirth; and his Scots humor enabled him to make the most of the situation. (June 9, 1936.)

PROPHECY WITHOUT PERTINENCY



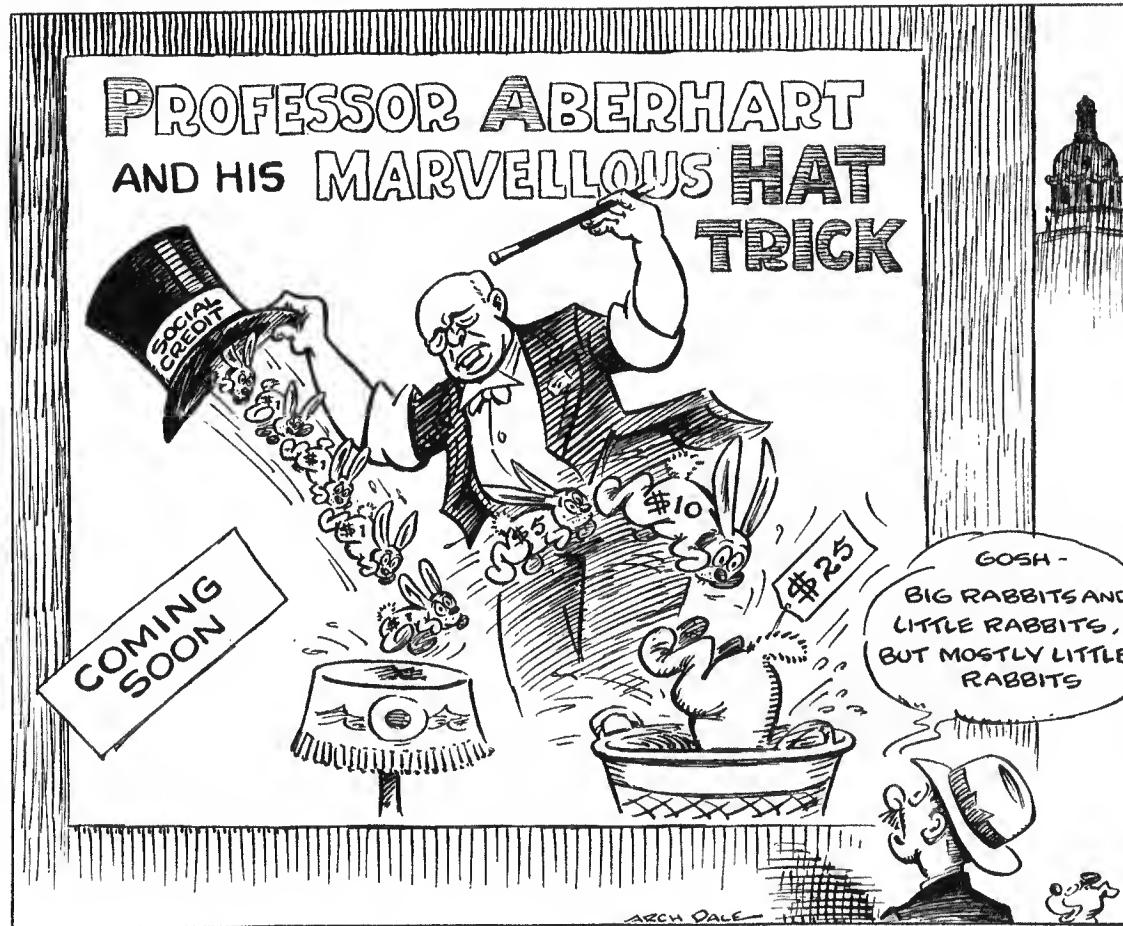
Despite criticism at home and abroad, Mr. Aberhart continued, with prodigious faith and supernatural optimism, to pursue his ordained course. He found it easier, however, to forecast events in Europe than he did to forecast them in Aberhartia. Dale seized the Premier's venture in crystal-gazing as an opportunity to inquire politely about the now-fabled "\$25 a month." (July 15, 1936.)

THE SCRIP THAT DIDN'T COME HOME



During July, '36, Mr. Aberhart, with more courage than wisdom, printed a couple of bales of handsome Scrip, calling them "prosperity bonds." The first of them went into circulation on Aug. 6. The idea was that stamps bought from the Government be affixed at weekly intervals; at the end of two years the Scrip was to be redeemable. But opposition was immediate and effective; some of the important larger wholesalers and manufacturers, the Calgary Board of Trade, the Calgary City Council, these and others refused to accept the pretty pieces of Aberhartian paper. The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce steadfastly opposed such Mad-Hatter financing. And the upshot was that Scrip gradually faded out of existence, except for particularly rabid souvenir hunters and for wall-papering purposes. (Aug. 11, 1936.)

SLIGHT OF HAND TACTICS



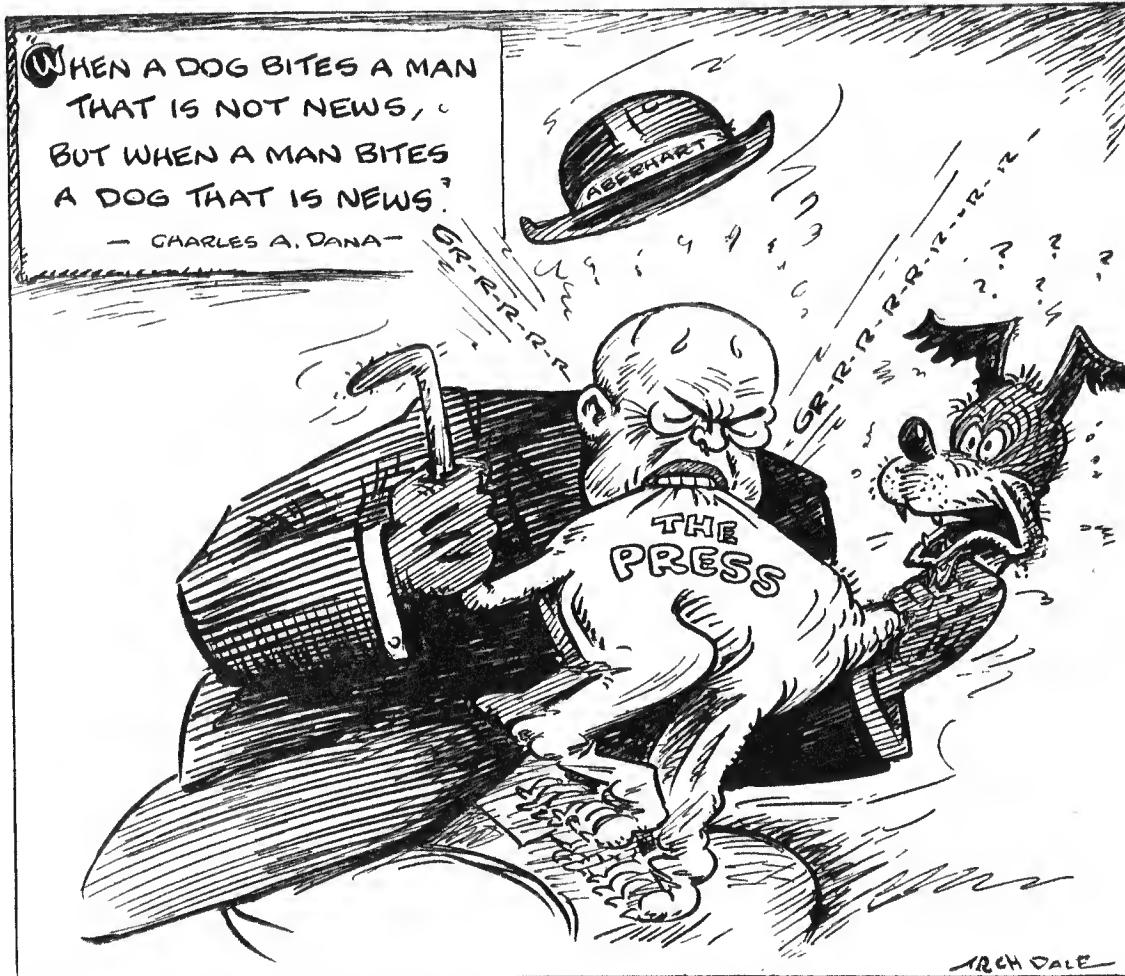
Despite this reversal with Scrip, Mr. Aberhart went merrily along his road to confusion. He got registration for the mythical basic dividends under way during August of '36, and announced that the entire West would be Social Credit before many months were out. Arch Dale was still tenaciously sceptical. He remembered the promise on March 12, 1936, that basic dividends would flow as soon as Major Douglas appeared on the scene; the promise of June 18, that basic dividends would be possible in February, 1937; the promise on July 14, deferring them to March, 1937; the announcement soon after that dividends of less than \$25 would have to come first. But sceptical as he was, Dale's sense of humor did not desert him. (Aug. 25, 1936.)

DIVERSION FROM OTHER WORRIES



Lost in his funny money maze, in the autumn of '36 Mr. Aberhart sought diversion from his worries in other pursuits. While his Legislature kept the spotlight focussed on Social Credit by tussling with the Social Credit Act, Mr. Aberhart went gunning after debt. But with his usual optimism he favored the debtor class to the injury of the creditor class. The repercussions didn't worry Mr. Aberhart—for a time. (Sept. 9, 1936.)

FURTHER SYMPTOMS OF MILD DISTEMPER APPEAR



As another diversion from his worries, Mr. Aberhart turned his attentions once more to the reform of the Press. His dislike, rather than becoming tempered with sweetness and light as the months passed, had deepened in its intensity, and showed marked inclinations towards gall and obscurantism. Dale was biding his time, waiting for the further outbursts he knew would come, and when they did he poured out his ridicule with gleeful gusto. The effect was astounding. (Oct. 3, 1936.)

MR. ABERHART'S MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION



Mr. Aberhart promptly denied his former statements. He claimed he had been misquoted and misinterpreted, as usual; he had no intention of licensing the Press. With his customary lucidity he said: "The Press should be allowed to print its opinions openly but surely no one would confuse that and claim the right of printing that which has no essence of truth from top to bottom." This stage in the development of his magnificent obsession brought immediate pleased response from Arch Dale, who at heart can hold no grudge. (Oct. 24, 1936.)

PERPLEXITY IN ABERHARTIA



Fourteen months in office found Mr. Aberhart perplexed and baffled. Troubles, like children in the famous Toronto "stork derby," increased until he had so many of them he scarcely knew what to do. Speaking at Coronation on Oct. 16, he threatened to throw up his hands in despair and quit. Dale took the occasion to add a dash of humor to politics in the land of Aberhartia. (Oct. 30, 1936.)

TAKING HEART AGAIN



Mr. Aberhart's backsliding was only momentary, however. He soon threw himself into his troubles with redoubled energy, if not with redoubled foresight, and by the end of Nov., '36, proudly claimed that the Social Credit movement was gaining ground in all parts of Canada, was "sweeping British Columbia like a prairie fire." But Mr. Aberhart was indulging in a little self-respecting wish-fulfilment. And Arch Dale, with the clairvoyance undoubtedly possessed by good cartoonists, poked fun at the grumpily courageous school master-premier. And Dale was right; in the B.C. elections of 1937, Social Credit failed to get a single seat! (Dec. 1, 1936.)

DEBUNKED



The end of 1936, however, found Mr. Aberhart in office some sixteen months, and no nearer Social Credit than he was when swept into control. And Mr. Dale was beginning to lose patience with promises. He was willing to have a lot of things explained away, but he also wanted a little action; for variety's sake, if nothing else. So at Christmas time he produced an appropriate Yuletide card for the visionary economic wizard of Aberhartia. Arch Dale likes lemons, but he prefers them in pies; or cocktails. His regard for people who use them in any other way prompts immediate scorn. (Dec. 26, 1936.)

THE FATAL STEP



Mr. Aberhart's reaction to Dale's Christmas jibe was prompt and courageous. By an heroic effort he re-established contact with British Social Credit doctrines; glanced hopefully at an eleven-point Social Credit program prepared by John Hargrave, expert in Utopias; pled to the faithful not to be "bewildered or confused"; announced that the ascension into the Social Credit heaven of blinding splendor was at hand. Dale, however, was still in his Christmas mood; he feared Mr. Aberhart's expert was leading to perdition rather than perfection; he dramatically warned the brave if foolhardy visionary of Aberhartia. (Jan. 12, 1937)

FORETASTE OF DEBACLE



Did the doughty crusader suddenly realize that Dale's criticisms of his impracticalities were based on shrewd Scottish insight into humanity and economics? At any rate, a fortnight after the sharp warning of Jan. 12, Mr. Aberhart thundered with his customary Olympian wisdom, extracted the teeth from Mr. Hargrave's plan, shouted that he was once again being cruelly misunderstood. Mr. Hargrave took the hint, retorted tartly that his confidence in Mr. Aberhart was shaken, labelled the Social Credit Government of Aberhartia a thing of darts and dashes. Culminating these exchanges of pleasantries, Mr. Hargrave recalled the poet's song, "Oh, to be in England now that April's there," and left early so as to reach home in plenty of time for the hawthorne blossoms. Dale caught the dramatic moment of his departure with touching wistfulness. (Jan. 27, 1937.)

TROUBLES ACCUMULATE



Bewildered by this sudden turn of events, Mr. Aberhart was no less bewildered by the rapid accumulation of other troubles. On Jan. 30, Charles Cockroft, provincial treasurer, resigned; two days later, J. F. Percival, deputy provincial treasurer, followed suit; about the same time it leaked out that the Quixotian adventure in Scrip had cost the land of Aberhartia something like a quarter of a million dollars in good, hard cash. Lawsuits attacking the validity of legislation cutting bond interest, added to the merriment. But through all these tribulations to his messianic genius, Mr. Aberhart retained a highly laudable calm. He finally blew up with Vesuvian vigor when he thought Finance Minister Dunning was discriminating against him over relief. Dale suggested Mr. Aberhart attempt the tactics of another famous expert in Utopias. (Feb. 19, 1937.)

THE HERO REMAINS STEADFAST



Nor did troubles in Aberhartia stop at this point. Insurgency among the home troops added to the touch of the spring madness of '37. In 1936, S. A. G. Barnes and J. Hansen had been read out of the Social Credit Party. In Feb., 1937, P. J. Rowe had been read out. And during May further rebellion rippled through the army straggling across the Plains of Aberhart. W. N. Chant, Minister of Agriculture, discovered first that he was out of step, and then that he was out of the legions of victory, entirely. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Trade and Industry and Health, made the same discovery. Moderates and radicals within the party fought for control of policy. Boomed Mr. Aberhart to the faithful: "If that is all our people know of Social Credit, then I am sorry for they have no comprehension whatever of the fundamentals of economics." (May 25, 1937)

DEFINITELY STALLED



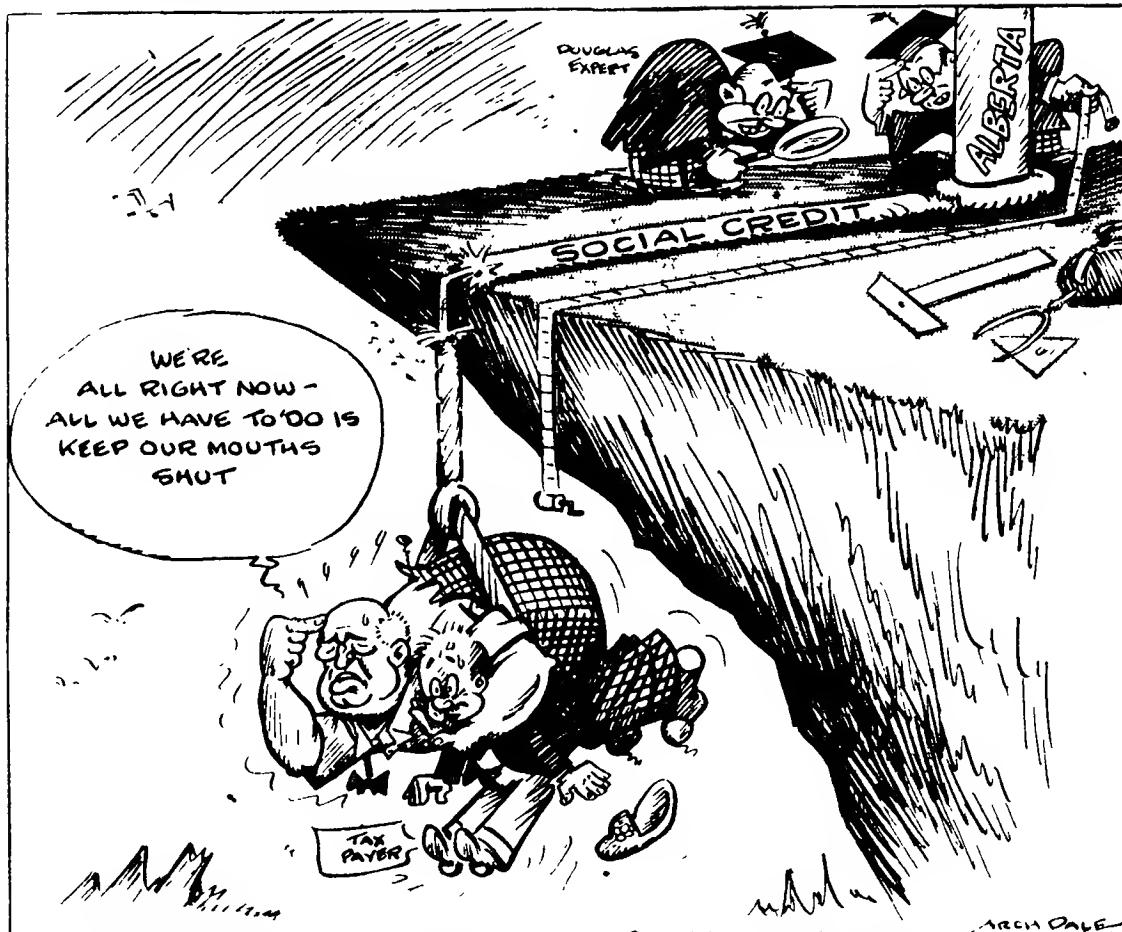
Early in May, '37, Mr. Aberhart was apparently in despair of ever reaching his Utopia under his own power. He once more proved the greatness of his spirit, forgot past differences with the rotund Major, sent emissaries hot-footing to London with overtures, hoped for the best. Speaking at Stavely he said: "Keep steady. Stay happy and stay going. It's not so easy to introduce Social Credit. It can not be put in a desert." Arch Dale seized the opportunity to state, in one searing cartoon, his complete reaction to Mr. Aberhart's magnificent notions: Social Credit was stalled in the desert, and was going to stay stalled despite Douglas. (May 9, 1937.)

INTENSIFYING HIS FEUD



Perhaps as a reaction to his own disappointment and chagrin over the delay in introducing Social Credit, Aberhart again turned his attentions, with pleasant vigor, to the Press. All his old antagonism welled up afresh. He conveniently forgot his protests that he had no intention of shackling the ministers of truth, roared denunciations of newspapers, declared in favor of licensing, wanted the Press restored "to its proper place in the public consciousness." Dale had his own opinions about the brand of "restoration" in the Premier's mind. (June 8, 1937.)

INCREDIBLE OPTIMISM IN ABERHARTIA



About the middle of June, '37, the Alberta Legislature sat for a brief session. To all appearances, the ranks of the Social Credit army were more solidified than they had been for months. G. F. Powell, Douglas emissary and Social Credit expert extraordinary, was on the job. And Mr. Aberhart, with incredible optimism, declared that everything was right in his best of all possible worlds. Arch Dale was equally optimistic, in his own charming way. (June 26, 1937.)

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES



The situation was not, however, as entirely rosy as courageous Mr. Aberhart had led the faithful to believe. Mr. Powell and his assistant surveyed the land of Aberhartia with hearty enthusiasm; but, alas, soon announced that they could not begin their drive for Social Credit until they were sure that Alberta unity was great enough to warrant such action. Arch Dale broke down with laughter. (July 7, 1937.)

REASSURANCE FOR THE FAITHFUL



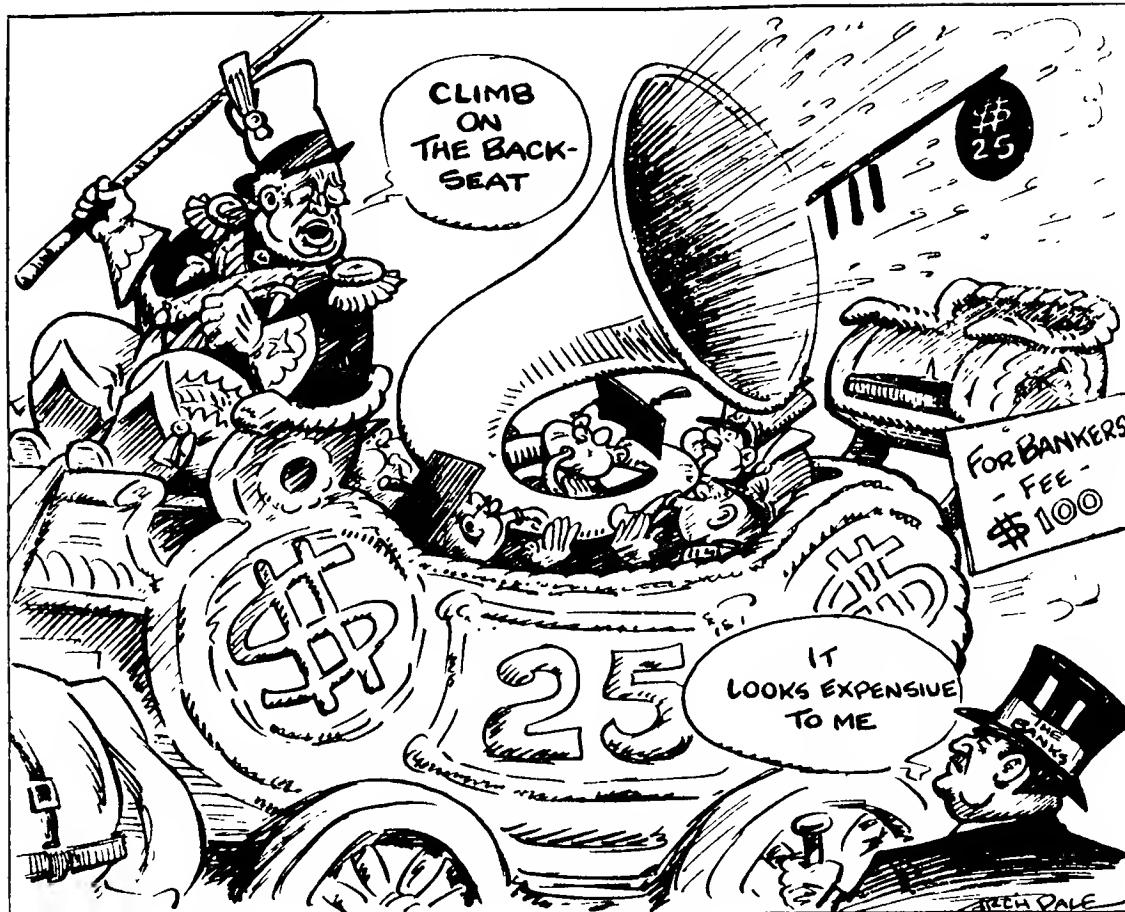
Mr. Aberhart, however, hastened to reassure the faithful; the rumors, that there must be something wrong in the state of Aberhartia, which crowded upon the heels of the Douglas experts' statement, were base and invidious; how could anything possibly happen to the flock with him as their shepherd? Tut, tut! But Arch Dale's mind returned, with good humored persistence, to the fairy promise of "\$25 a month," now two years old, and sprouting whiskers. (July 21, 1937.)

EVEN THE BRAIN BUSTERS STUMPED



By the beginning of August, '37, the eighteen-month deadline was long passed, and there were fresh signs of insurgency within the ranks of the impatient millennium-seekers. Meanwhile the famous British brain busters, Powell and Bryne, were making names for themselves by getting nowhere rapidly. Their bluff that Aberhartia was not yet ready for Utopia had been called; any country is always ready for Utopia, shouted the insurgents, bring it along! Powell and Bryne, however, were as absolutely stumped as Mr. Aberhart himself. Dale, with this indisputable evidence of his own right judgment, remained serenely pleasant, instead of getting cynical. (Aug. 3, 1937.)

THE BAND WAGON PRODUCES A FEEBLE NOTE



It was at this juncture that Mr. Aberhart got mildly desperate. Something simply had to be done. The band wagon must tune up and get under way. There was no surprise then, when the 1937 session of the Legislature introduced some specific motions designed to manufacture the fabled basic dividends, not out of thin air, but out of some one else's pocketbooks. But there was surprise that Mr. Aberhart and his experts chose to make the banks the goats. The base of the Social Credit structure, as far as the unenlightened observers of the economic aberrations in Aberhartia could make out, was to be the licensing of all banks; they were to be the first things taken for a ride. Dale was astonished, and amused. (Aug. 6, 1937.)

THE RETREAT TO GLORY



The band wagon idea, however, quickly developed a loud volume of off-key music. J. W. Hugill, Attorney-General, resigned; constitutional struggles loomed; the Dominion vetoed; Mr. Aberhart attempted to defy Mr. King; secession was mooted and hooted; the insurgents drew further lines of demarcation between themselves and the disciples of the truth faith. Said Mr. W. N. Chant, former Minister of Agriculture: "We have no longer representative government in this province." (Sept. 1, 1937.)

HIGH JINKS IN ABERHARTIA



For the following ten days the ruction in the state of Aberhartia was an almost indescribable Gilbert-and-Sullivan operetta. Allegations, denials, protests, threats, and insinuations flew so thick and fast that Arch Dale was quite bewildered. And then suddenly Mr. L. D. Bryne, co-efficiency-expert with Mr. Powell, announced that Mr. Aberhart was pursuing his course serenely, following only the Douglas Social Credit principles. The doughty Major approved and blessed with splendid heartiness. The announcement cleared Dale's understandable perplexity, and he modestly provided his public with an elucidation of the situation. (Sept. 10, 1937.)

THREATS OF SAMSONIAN GENTLENESS



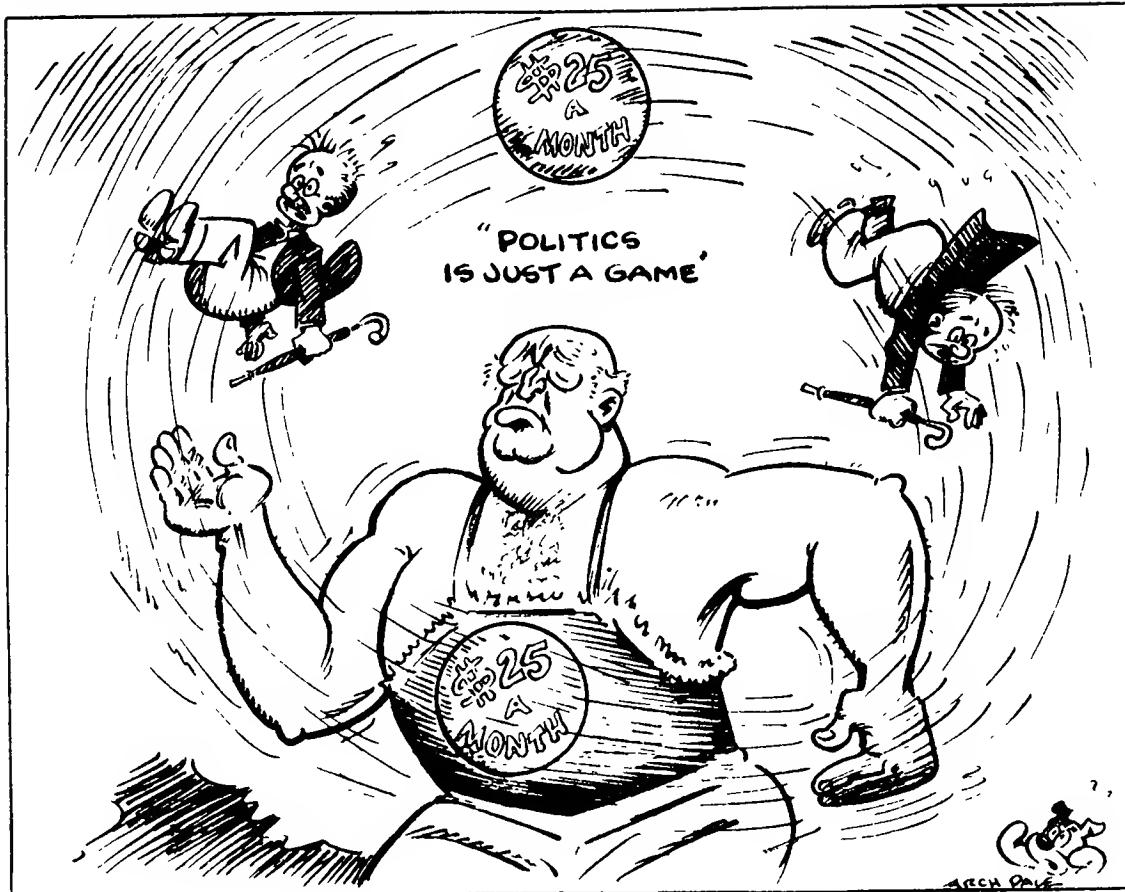
In the meantime, Mr. Aberhart openly avowed his intentions of defying Ottawa's disallowance of his brilliant banking acts. Broadcasting from his temple of inspiration, Mr. Aberhart forecast "some steps that will surprise." Mr. G. L. MacLachlan, Chairman of the Alberta Social Credit Board, commenting on the decision to call a special session of the Legislature, said: "If the banks continue to defy the will of the people, your government will take the necessary measures to ensure that the will of the people is obeyed." These announcements found Arch Dale in an irrepressibly jolly mood, and out of his profound knowledge of tactics in Aberhartia, he graphically estimated what the "surprise, necessary measures" would be. (Sept. 15, 1937.)

DAME PARTINGTON IN ABERHARTIA



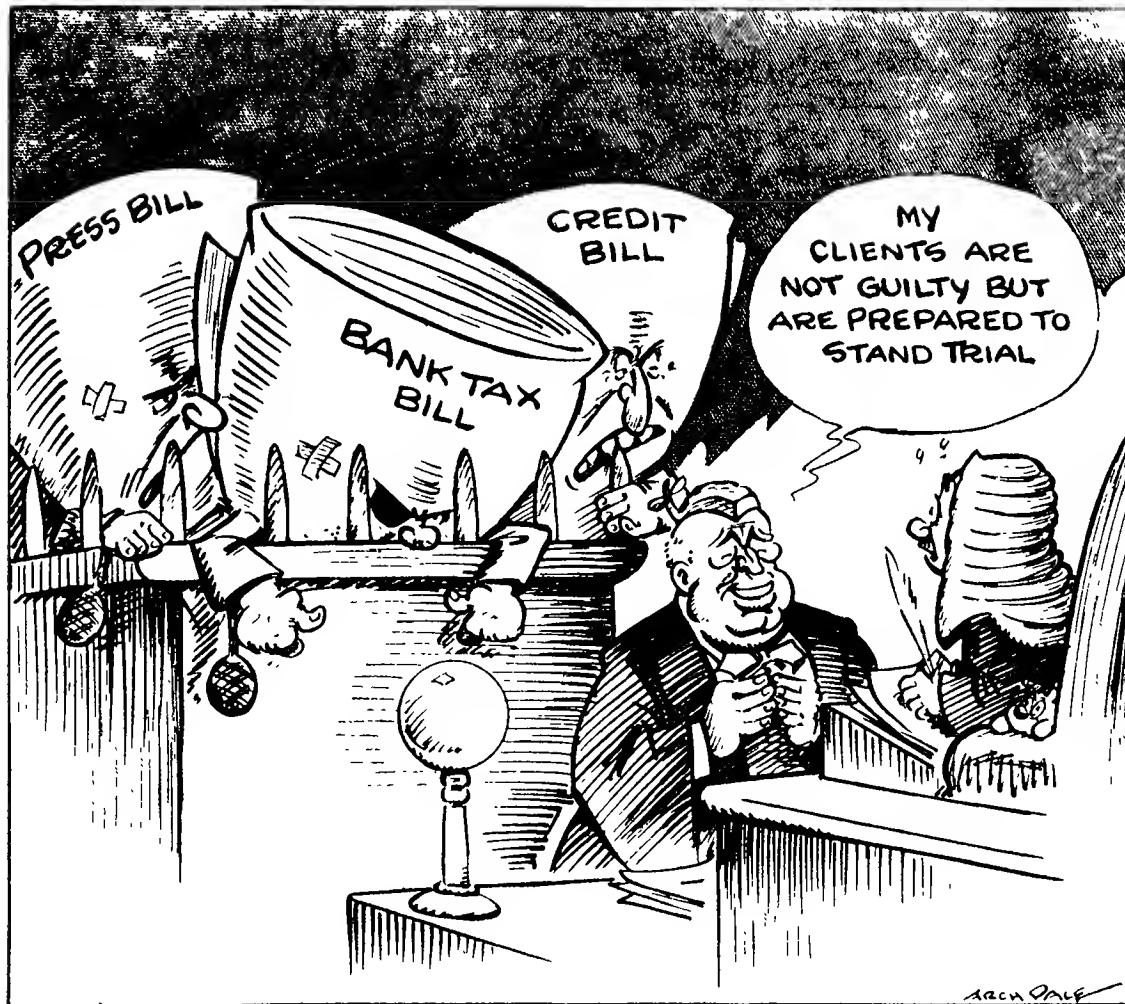
After twenty-six months in office, the opposition to Mr. Aberhart and his policies reached an unprecedented peak. On Sept. 22, 1937, the first attempt was made to recall the Premier by getting 67 per cent. of the electors in his constituency to sign a recall petition. The next day Mr. Hugill delivered the unkindest cut of all when in a radio address he charged his former leader with tendencies towards megalomania. On the 24th Mr. Chant finally made up his mind to cross the floor of the House and enter Opposition. On the 25th "The Calgary Albertan" broke with the Government. And by the first of October there was another terrific row in the Social Credit caucus. Mr. Aberhart was having his troubles, and Arch Dale his fun. (Oct. 6, 1937.)

MERELY A WHOLESOME DIVERSION



It was no surprise then, when Mr. Aberhart, speaking to a meeting of electors, got slightly nettled, and permitted himself the indulgence of oracular acidity. Dale was quick to snap up the remark, and return it to its source with good-humored asperity; for, with Scottish tenacity, Dale was still interested in the "\$25 a month" bounty. Mr. Aberhart must never be allowed to forget his initial gesture of generosity. (Oct. 9, 1937.)

LITTLE LAMBS FROM ABERHARTIA



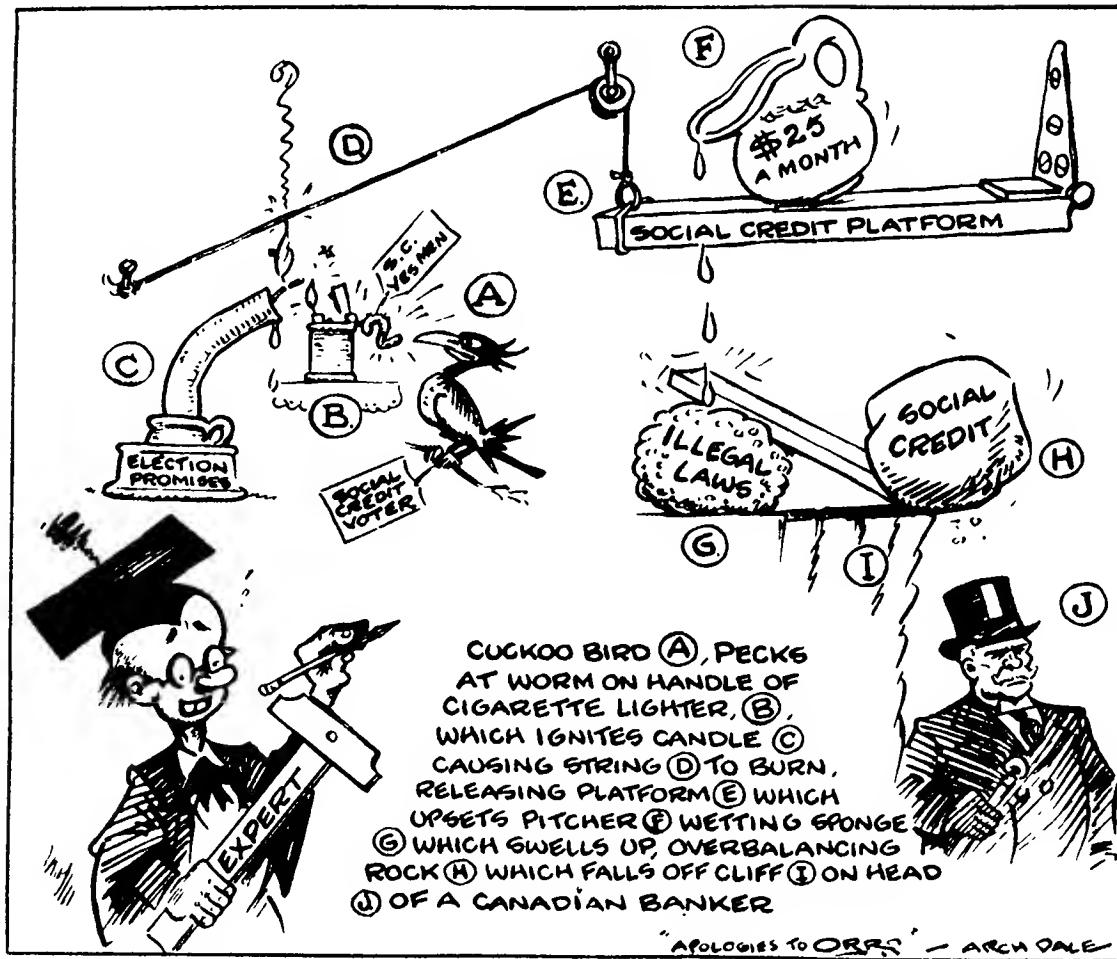
After the emergency session of the Legislature, held early in Oct., '37, had prorogued, Mr. Aberhart got busy preparing a brief on three of his Government's important enactments: the control of credit bill, a revised banking bill to replace the one disallowed earlier in the year, and a press control bill. This brief was an unusual admission by the Olympian Premier of Aberhartia; it was based on a belated acknowledgment that Mr. King's plea for Supreme Court decision on the first banking bill, had been quite in order; therefore Mr. Aberhart was at last willing to have court reference for his latest prodigies. Dale, astounded though he was at the suave self-righteousness of Social Credit doctrines, did not let his basic sense of humor desert him. (Oct. 20, 1937.)

AN SOS INCONSIDERATELY IGNORED



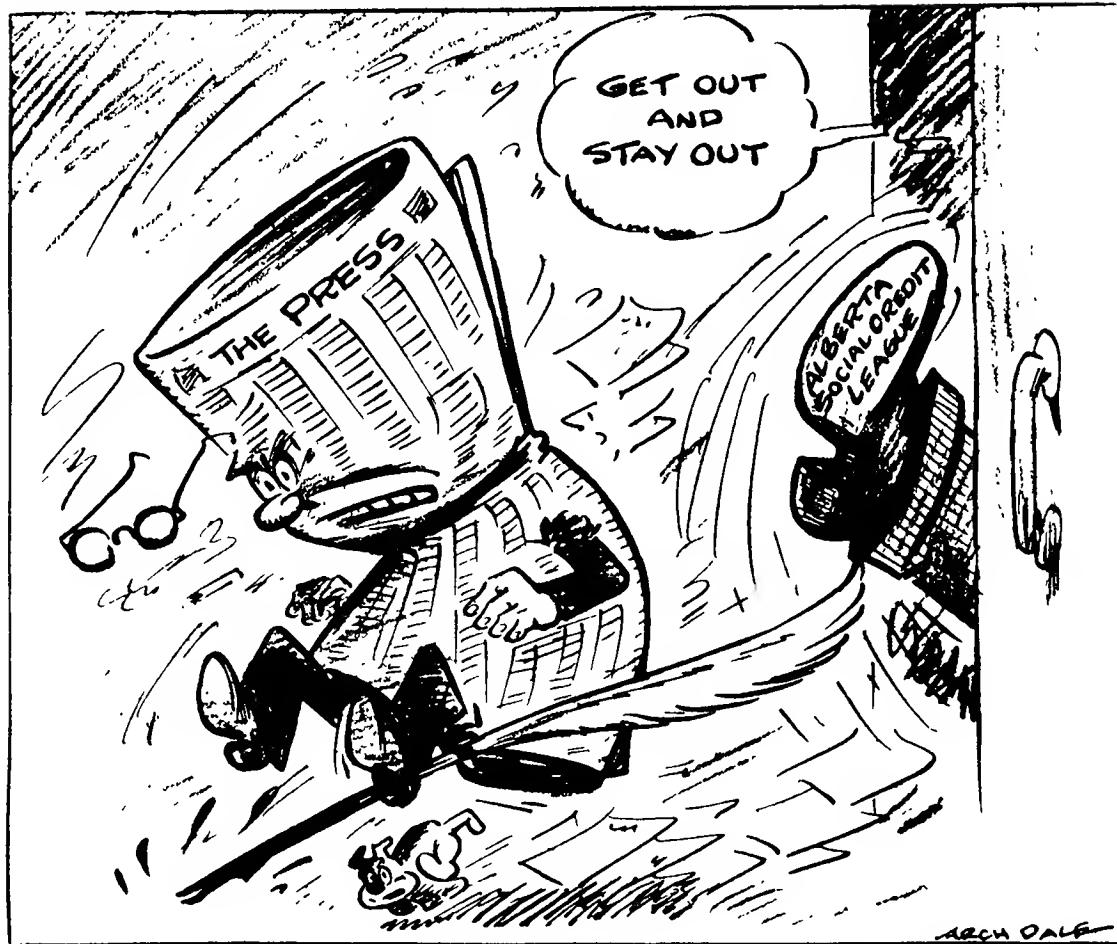
These new tactics, however, did not quite succeed in bringing heaven to earth in Aberhartia. Messrs. G. F. Powell and J. H. Unwin, expert bosses in Elysium, were under arrest after excessive political ardour; lusty complaints charged that the Government had paid through the nose for roadwork; athletic orators accused the Government of placing Alberta in the van of a business retreat. Thus badgered to right and to left, Mr. Aberhart wistfully sought advice and encouragement from the world's Grand Panjandrum of Social Credit; but the Panjandrum was curiously disinterested. Dale chuckled heartily. (Oct. 27, 1937.)

SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF SIMPLE OPERATION



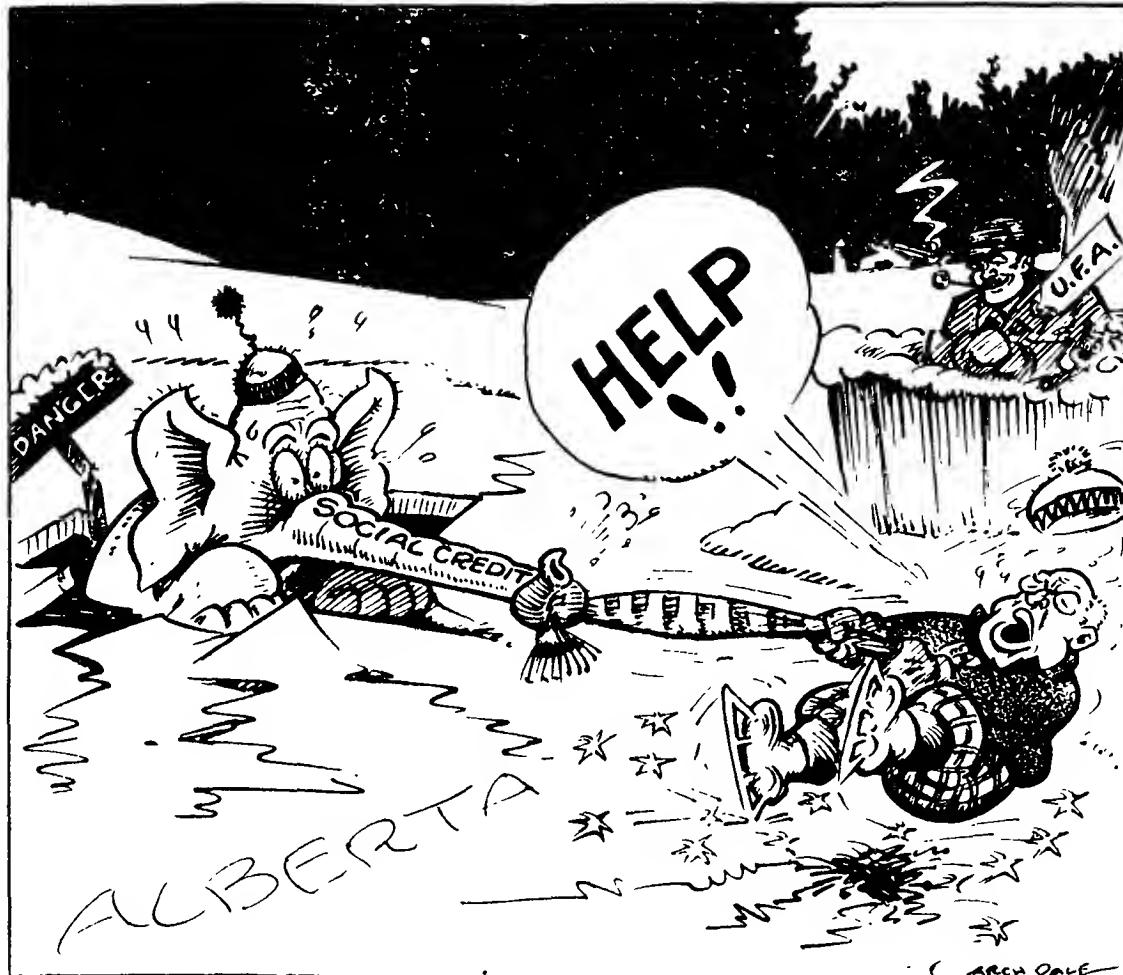
After twenty-seven months in office, Social Credit was still a mirage on the horizons of Aberhartia. Despite the broken promises, however, despite the repeated embroglios and Olympian futilities, Arch Dale retained his cheery good will and commonsense. And when, towards the end of 1937, it was clear that Mr. Aberhart's proposal to make the banks bear the foundations of Cuckoo Land's edifices was an impractical if happy monstrosity, Dale decided to present Mr. Aberhart with a working model of Social Credit. The resultant brain child was quite as much of a perfect brain storm as the genuine Douglas article. (Nov. 16, 1937.)

THE PUBLIC BE DAMNED, IN ABERHARTIA



Early in 1938, while court decision was still pending on his credit, banking, and press bills, Mr. Aberhart's inability to take criticism of a good-natured and helpful kind, led him to commit the unpardonable sin of permitting his Social Credit League to debar newshawks from meetings. Dale was mildly annoyed; his love of serving the public colored his reaction to the latest example of Aberhartian gallantry; and his comment on the occasion, while not bitter, was undisguisedly concentrated. (Jan. 15, 1938.)

NOT CUTTING SUCH FINE FIGURES



Nor was 1938 very old before Mr. Aberhart once more found his all-engrossing troubles accumulating with well-remembered intensity. There was open criticism, at the provincial Social Credit convention, of his arbitrary if well-meant methods of encompassing the millennium; backsliders were unhappy but firm in their conviction that it was quite possible for the Supreme Court to reach an adverse decision on the three bills under consideration, and they therefore doubted the powers of their Government. In the face of this threat, Mr. Aberhart tootled gently seductive overtures to the United Farmers of Alberta for support; but the U.F.A. remained cool, collected, indifferent. (Jan. 18, 1938.)

AN UNHAPPY CAESAR



Early in February, Mr. Aberhart suffered the most unhappy ignominy of his illustrious career. The trial of Powell and Unwin, unfortunate victims of their own literary genius, had progressed to an excessively calamitous end, and the Alberta courts had imposed sentences on charges of publishing defamatory libel. It was Mr. Aberhart's deplorable duty, as Attorney-General replacing the astutely recreant Mr. Hugill, to instruct the sheriff to pack Social Credit's over-zealous seraphims off to jail. Dale, with uproarious good nature, immortalized the historic ordet. (Feb. 11, 1938.)

PROPHETS' PROFITS IN ABERHARTIA



The days fled, with unhurried insistence, down the corridors of Time, and still no basic dividends from the Social Credit miraculous abracadabra. But Arch Dale remained unembittered, jolly, willing to be tolerant. And then the bomb exploded. Mr. Aberhart, unable to find profits for the multitude, found them for his prophets; his partners in millennium moonshine were handsomely rewarded for their long and arduous labors directed towards the betterment of mankind. Dale, astounded at the triumph whose splendor dimmed the ancient oracular promise of "\$25 a month for all," gently outlined Mr. Aberhart's career in circumlocution. (March 9, 1938.)

INCAUTIOUS CRUSADING IN ABERHARTIA



On March 22, 1938, Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit forces outdid themselves. They fought a doughty fight in the East Edmonton by-election, won a splendid victory on a minority vote, and Mr. Aberhart announced that he had danced a jig as promised. "Forward!" he bellowed to his hosts; "Hallelujah!" he shouted to the world. And promptly forgetting the bills that the Supreme Court of Canada had disallowed, promptly forgetting the three other provincial by-elections since 1935 which his forces had lost, Mr. Aberhart galloped forth in search of further resounding victories. Dale, undismayed and cheerfully indulgent, epitomized his hero's Quixotian vigor. (March 23, 1938.)

ABE McCARTHY AND DOUG BERGEN

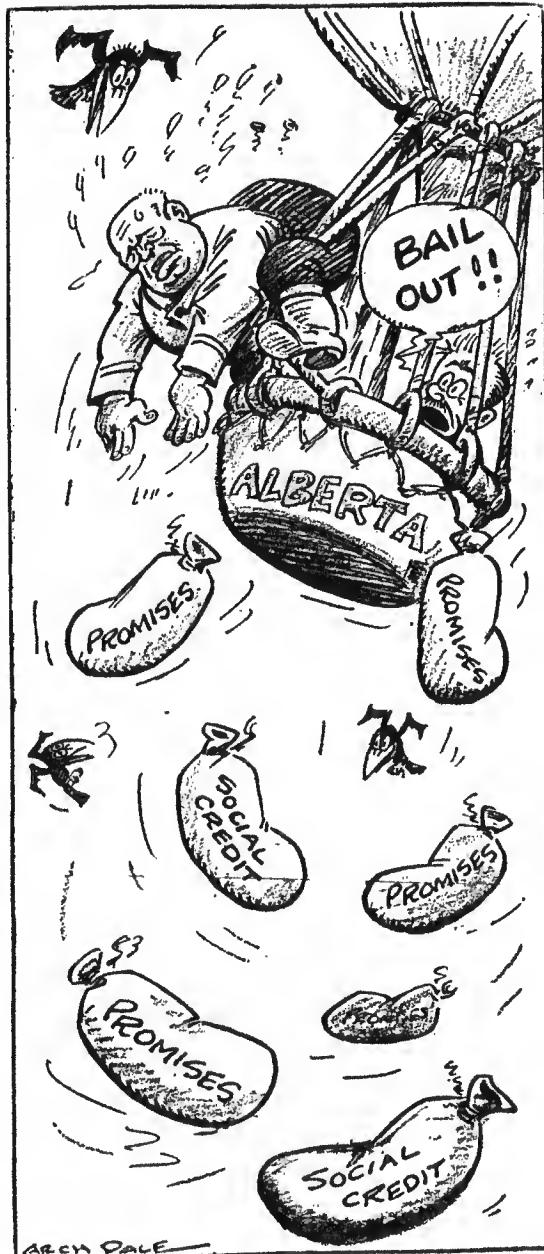


The tender buds of April had scarcely burgeoned forth ere there were substantial indications that pleasantly perambulating Social Credit was off on still another tack. But three important measures, recommended by Major Douglas to Mr. Aberhart's Social Credit Board, were retained in the new programme. This fact, plus a revealing statement by Mr. Duggan, caught Arch Dale in one of his happiest moods, and he capitalized on the situation with his usual amiable insight into the affairs of that curious kingdom of baloney blessedness. (April 19, 1938.)

HEAVEN IS UP IN THE AIR, AND SO IS SOCIAL CREDIT



In more ways than one, Social Credit was off on a new tack. It was about this time that the Rowell Dominion-Provincial Relations Royal Commission invaded Aberhartia; but the Premier, unexpectedly smitten with a sense of modesty, retired from the halls of investigation; and it was not until the entourage, happily tolerant of the peccadillos of great men, had departed that Dale, ever attentive to his subject's comfort, announced that the coast was clear again. Mr. Aberhart immediately became enthusiastically active in his new programme, and ventured abroad, leaving behind a trail of abandoned promises and principles.



INVITATION TO UTOPIA



Mr. Aberhart's adventures abroad were, of course, aimed at Saskatchewan; and his opening gestures were charmingly tentative, modest, wholly becoming one so high in state office. When the news of a Saskatchewan election stirred the hustings, Mr. Aberhart murmured: "There might be a possibility that many of our men would be invited to go into the Province to spread the good news." Dale therefore caught the apostle of the Social Credit recipe for pie in the sky in a mellowly hopeful mood. Powell and Unwin had been released from jail with the remainder of their sentences suspended, and for the first time in many months there was no serious hay-fever in the Elysium fields of clover. Mr. Aberhart considered the millennium just around the corner, and time to do some more shouting. (April 14, 1938.)

THE SOCREDS HIT THE WARPATH



And shout he did. His earliest announcements, once that he was sure his first delicate overtures could be decently interred, included the dramatic statement that, like the prophet of old, he was going to descend upon Saskatchewan in a whirlwind. Dale, whose early experiences on the prairies must certainly have included dramatic escapes from Indians, immediately had the happy notion of envisaging Mr. Aberhart and his confederates as the brave warrior tribe of Socreds. In this delightful vein, Dale introduced the courageous messiah of Utopia to the astonished people of Saskatchewan. (May 14, 1938.)

SOCREDS HOT AFTER SCALP LOCKS



Mr. Aberhart obligingly accepted the role so whimsically conceived by Dale. Realizing that he was facing a stronger government, with sounder policies and surer conceptions of the wishes of the people, than he had faced in Alberta in 1935, Mr. Aberhart promptly became militant. Gathering about him his most stalwart braves, his most energetic experts, the heap big chief of the Socreds set out on the warpath hot after scalp locks. The vigor of Dale's pen, however, quite matched the vigor of Chief Don't-Remind-Me-Of-My-Promises, and he produced a further graphic chronicle of political phenomena. (May 17, 1938.)

THE STRANGELY RELUCTANT MILLENNIUM



At this point, despite the interest of Arch Dale's remarkable history of economics in dementia, despite the obvious morals and precepts and wisdoms which Mr. Aberhart by his recorded words and actions has bequeathed to a world that gasps as it admires, we are forced to leave the chronicle. We have not been able to report the millennium, for the millennium has been strangely reluctant. Out of three years of affable fatuities and amiable faux pas, Mr. Aberhart has produced not one single concrete basic dividend. He goes on cackling happily, Arch Dale chuckles cheerfully, and the rest of us conjecture . . . world without end, and without millennium.

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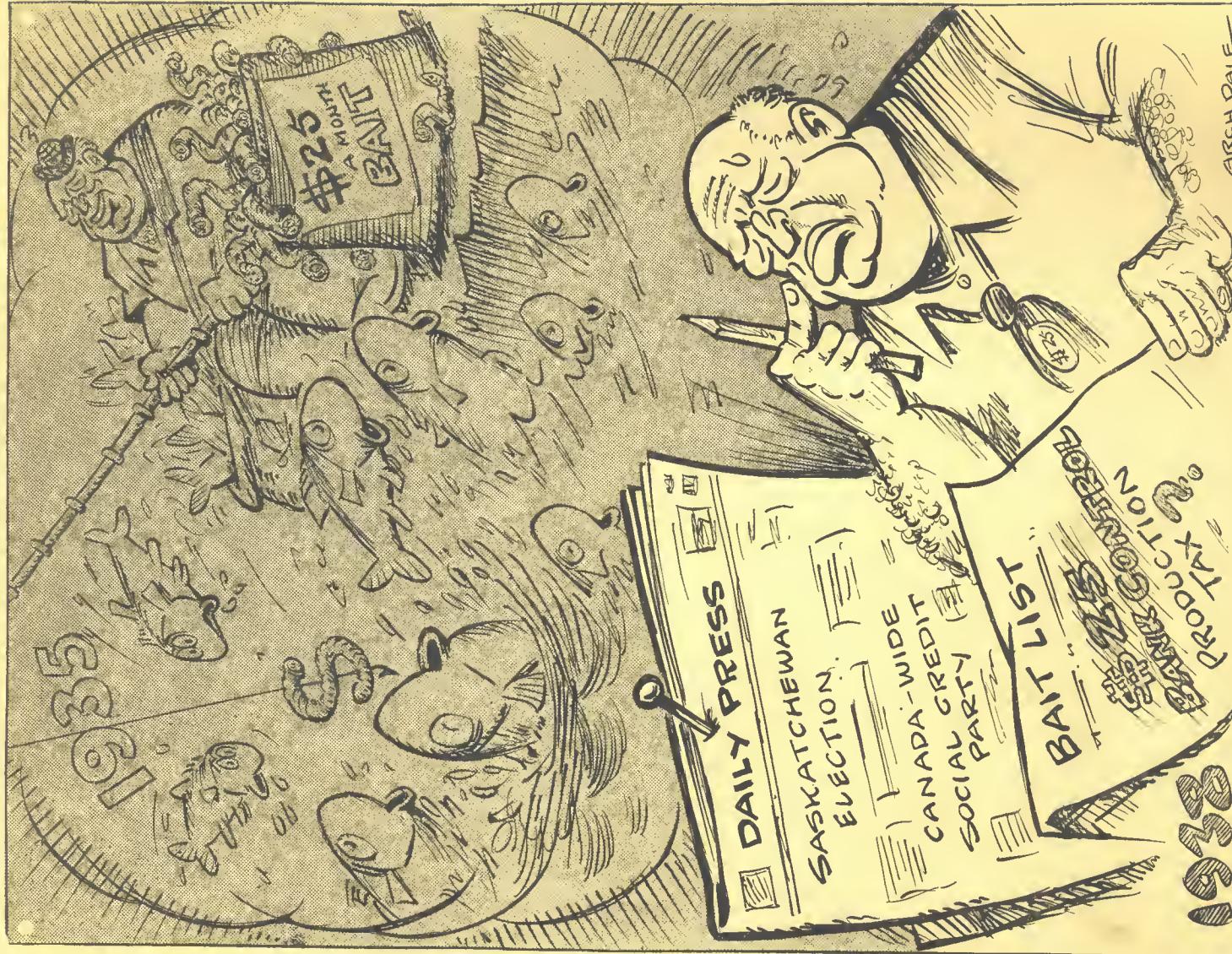
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THE AUDACIOUS ANGLER

No longer shouts he wisdom for the soul
But sits beside the brook with ready hand,
Where, with a wary eye and ready hand,
He studies first to hook and then to land

The voters he mistakes for easy marks;
And they, in turn, hide his playful larks,
Avoid the hooks, and with a knowing wile
Eat up the bait, the Fisherman beguile.

—With Earnest Apologies to one Edward Powell, dead these 250 years or so.